

Approved 2/23/22
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday February 16, 2022 4:30 pm
Via Zoom

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cynthia Mitchell and Town Administrator Jen Rand

Also present for part or all of the meeting: Cheryl Lowe, Kate DeVane, John Rau, Jane Rossi, Nicola Blake, Kathy Logue, Bruce Stone, Kate Warner, Meghan Gombos, Erik Peckar, Sarah Fuschetto, James Klingensmith, Chris Lyons, Eunki Seonwoo, Zach Harris, Janice Haynes and other members of the public that did not speak.

Chair Skipper Manter called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Minutes: Vote to Approve: February 9, 2022

There were no questions or corrections

Cindy moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022. Skipper seconded. Roll Call vote: all in favor (2-0-0)

New Business:

- **Liz Durkee Re: Climate Action Plan:**

Meghan Gombos was present in place of Liz Durkee on behalf of the MV Commission to provide an update with where they are at with Climate Action Plan. They started the planning process in December and have over 100 local residents involved. They have explored the major impacts to the island from climate change and have begun developing plan components which she shared. They are looking for input from the towns and are hoping to work with the Town Administrator to set up a town workshop to get insights and feedback. The Board thought it was a great idea but wondered if Jen would have the time. She said if it was just setting up a meeting and getting the info out to the appropriate people, she could do that. No action taken by the board.

- **Special Municipal Employee Designation Energy Committee and Climate Committee:**

Jen explained that the Board has the authority to grant Special Municipal Employee status and that it will be coming up again as the town has now moved into a new category of committee membership and employee membership when the population went over 3500 people. Kate Warner requested they do this now for the Energy Committee and Climate

Committee because of the new job coming up in April. The ethics committee says she would be eligible for the position as long as on both committees the members were designated as Special Municipal Employees. There's no downside to the designation, and there will be many more to do once she has time to sit down and figure it out.

Cindy moved to designate Kate Warner, Richard Andre, Nicola Blake, Ron Dagostino and Sue Hruby for the Energy Committee and Rob Houck, Russ Hartenstein, Donna Paulnock, Beckie Finn, Garrison Vieira, Farren Worthington, and Virginia Jones for the Climate Committee as Special Municipal Employees. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor (2-0-0)

- **Planning Board Associate Member Appointment – John Rau:**

The Planning Board has requested the appointment by letter. John was thanked for stepping up.

Cindy moved to appoint John Rau as an Associate Member to the Planning Board for a 1-year term till April of 2023. Skipper seconded. Roll Call vote: all in favor (2-0-0)

- **Appointment of Special Counsel John Cloherty:**

There is a legal matter involving the Conservation Commission and one of Ron Rappaport's partners represented one of the parties back in the 90's. There has been a question raised about a conflict. Ron advises they authorize Atty. Cloherty to deal with the issue to take the question out of the mix. His rates are quite similar to what they are paying now so it's a reasonable step to take.

Cindy moved to appoint John Cloherty as Special Counsel. Skipper seconded. Roll Call vote: all in favor (2-0-0)

- **Town Administrator Request to Carry-Over 108 hours vacation time:**

Cindy moved to approve the Town Administrator Request to Carry-Over 108 hours vacation time. Skipper seconded. Roll Call vote: all in favor (2-0-0)

- **Steamship Legislation re: Term Limits:**

Skipper was not in favor of the way the State Legislators did it with no notification to the public. Cindy said that it was reported in the paper that the Governors are reviewing it and recommended they wait and see before discussing. No action taken.

- **CPC Request to add an Article to the Warrant or Call a Special for One Article:**

Cheryl Lowe first apologized for the misunderstanding in their submissions of the warrant articles. She went on to explain their reasoning and how it happened. Jen explained the process and how the CPC submits differently than others. She said that all other boards and committees are required to submit discrete warrant articles on the warrant article submittal sheets. The CPC is exempt from that process and submit all of their articles as one submittal. She said they believed that that single submittal or articles could be amended for two weeks, and that adding an article was simply an edit to their submittal. Jen said she honestly thinks it was all a misunderstanding as there are new committee members and a new Administrative Assistant. Skipper is concerned about violating the towns bylaws. Cindy said she agreed that it was appropriate to treat this as an edit and add it to the warrant. Discussion followed as to the options; adding it to the warrant, or a Special Town meeting. In the end it was decided to allow the article to be put on the regular warrant.

Cindy moved to allow the CPC to submit the article as edited to the regular warrant. Skipper seconded. Roll Call vote: all in favor (2-0-0)

- **Warrant Finance Review:**

Bruce detailed the warrant financials and what is affecting the budget and tax levy. They are trying to keep some of the free cash and not have to do a proposition 2 ½ override. The Financial Management team is recommending a capitol exclusion. There was discussion about the process. Cindy thinks it's a good plan and thanked the team for the time they put in.

Cindy moved to put a ballot question on the warrant for the capitol exclusion as described by Bruce Stone. Skipper seconded. Roll Call vote: all in favor (2-0-0)

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Jen mentioned that she would be sending out a revised warrant tomorrow to include the CPC article and another question that she had forgotten to include. Cindy and Skipper offered a few edits and corrections for the final draft.
- Jen said that Dick Johnson had been trying to get to their meeting before it hit the papers to let them know that they had hired a new biologist for the Island's tick-borne illness prevention program. He will be coming in next week to introduce him.
- Bruce informed the board that the town has received the last of the Covid money from FEMA.

Old Business: There was none

Correspondence: A letter from Sunrise Wind with an invitation to consult on the project.

Public Comment: There was none.

*With no further business to attend to Cindy moved to adjourn the meeting. Skipper seconded.
Roll Call vote: All in favor. (2-0-0)*

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant